

Vol. 5 Iss. 3 Fall 2022

MASQUARTERLY

From the MAS PMO

Happy Fall!

As always, the Multiple Award Schedule Program Management Office (MAS PMO) is committed to being your trusted resource and partner. This newsletter summarizes key program updates from October 2022 to December 2022.

To stay informed in real time, subscribe to the <u>MAS Interact group</u> and get news straight to your inbox!

If you would like to provide feedback or topics for future MAS newsletters, please send your suggestions to maspmo@gsa.gov.

Thank you for your continued partnership.

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What's New

GSA Optimizes Opportunities for Small Businesses Through SBA 8(a) Partnership Agreement

A new 8(a) Program Partnership Agreement (PA) recently signed by GSA and the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) will increase 8(a) contracting opportunities and also make it easier for GSA customers to use the MAS program to access solutions from 8(a) contractors. Read our Interact post to learn more about the benefits of this PA.

Multiple Award Schedule Contract Modification Process: Best Practices and Frequently Asked Questions

In this Interact post we provide some insights into the Multiple Award Schedule (MAS) contract modification process and highlight some best practices to help ensure a smooth and efficient modification experience. Be sure to read the Frequently Asked Questions attached at the bottom of the post!

New Threshold and Other Updates to GSA Advantage Order Status

Multiple Award Schedule Contractors! Check out our Interact post that includes three updates related to GSA Advantage Order Status.

Multiple Award Schedule Program Working to Address Inflationary Impacts

GSA remains committed to identifying opportunities to reduce the impact of inflation on our industry partners. GSA recently issued <u>Supplement 1 to GSA Acquisition Letter MV-22-02</u>, which extends a temporary moratorium on the enforcement of certain limitations contained in GSA Economic Price Adjustment (EPA) contract clauses from September 30, 2022 to March 31, 2023. The supplement also streamlines and enhances the ability for FAS contracting officers to respond to and process EPA requests. You may <u>submit any questions</u> or comments about the supplement in the "Comment" section of our Interact post.

For information about the MAS program and ordering procedures, please visit the GSA Schedule Buyers page.

Removing Non-Compliant Products from MAS Contracts and GSA Advantage!

Compliance with the terms and conditions of your Multiple Award Schedule is critical to the success of the MAS program! This December, FAS is continuing to take action to remove non-compliant products from MAS contracts and GSAAdvantage!. FAS is removing products that are:

- Not compliant with FAR clause 52.204-23, Prohibition on Contracting for Hardware, Software, and Services Developed or Provided by Kaspersky Lab and Other Covered Entities.
- Not compliant with FAR clause 52.204-25, *Prohibition on Contracting for Certain Telecommunications and Video Surveillance Services or Equipment.*
- Refurbished, reconditioned and repaired items.
- Remanufactured items offered under a Special Item Number where they are not allowed.

Please take steps to ensure non-compliant products are not offered on your MAS contract! FAS Contracting Officers may take corrective action if contractors repeatedly offer non-compliant products. For more information about FAS initiatives to remove non-compliant products, visit the <u>Vendor Support Center</u>, Supply Chain Risk Management section.

2023 FAST Monthly Training Series

GSA's Federal Acquisition Service Training (FAST) series is back!

This FAST 2023 lineup will focus on improving requirements development across government and how GSA solutions can help program managers, contracting professionals, and industry partners succeed in the federal marketplace.

Schedule

Date	Session Topic
February 22	Acquiring Professional Services to Build a Future-Ready Workforce
March 29	Acquiring Products and Services to Support IT Transformation and Modernization
May 16-18	Federal Acquisition Service Training Conference (FAST2023) - Annual 3-Day Event
June 28	Acquiring Products & Services for Emergency Preparedness - Building Mission Resilience

Register here to receive updates on all upcoming FY23 FAST events and please share the link with your colleagues!

Updates to Current MAS Programs

SIP Upgrade Is Here!

We have released Version 9.0 of the Schedule Input Program (SIP). The new version includes security upgrades and minor changes to the look and feel of the site. As of 12/1/2022, we will not accept submissions using older versions of SIP and users must upgrade to the new version to access their catalog.

Keep Your GSA Advantage! Catalog Up to Date

Did you know you are required to update your Contract Price List every two years? That's right, electronic catalogs/price lists previously submitted to GSA, in accordance with Schedule contract clause I-FSS-600(a) Contract Price List, must be updated every two years.

Why is this so important? Old catalogs/price lists may contain discontinued items and out-dated pricing, which when ordered online, cause problems for agency customers and you, the contractor. Your contract requires that you honor pricing contained in your published catalog, whether printed or electronic. To stay in compliance with your contract, please be sure to update your catalog/price list regularly.

If you have questions about how to update your price list, contact our Vendor Support Center at <u>vendor.support@gsa.gov</u> or 877-495-4849.

MAS Consolidation Phase 3

Have more than one MAS contract under the same Unique Entity Identifier (UEI)? Your company may need to take action during Phase 3 of MAS Consolidation to move all your offerings to one surviving MAS contract.

All consolidation actions should be made in coordination with your GSA Contracting Officer and in accordance with your agreed upon Phase 3 Consolidation Checklist and Plan.

These consolidation plans are the first step in determining your surviving contract and to start the process of getting to one contract. **No Phase 3 modifications will be approved without an approved plan.**

The MAS PMO has posted all Phase 3 supplier resources on the <u>Vendor Support Center</u>, including our M<u>AS Consolidation Phase 3 Guide for Industry</u>. This new resource takes you through all the critical consolidation steps.

QUICK LINKS

MAS Consolidation Phase 3
Contractor Checklist and Plan
(*required)

MAS Consolidation Phase 3
Guide for Industry

MAS Consolidation Phase 3
Overview & FAQs for Industry

Phase 3 Recorded Training for Impacted Contractors - August 2020

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Note: Phase 3 DOES NOT apply to you if:

- Your company manages two contracts and:
 - One contract has a small business set-aside (SBSA) Special Item Number (SIN) or
 - One contract is a follow-on contract with the same SIN(s)
- Your company only has one MAS contract

Please submit your <u>Phase 3 Consolidation Checklist and Plan</u> to your Contracting Officer(s) and copy <u>maspmo@gsa.gov</u> as soon as possible to get the process started.

Questions?

Email us anytime at maspmo@gsa.gov or connect directly with your CO(s).

CATALOG MANAGEMENT UPDATES

Introducing the Product File

The new Common Catalog Platform (CCP) will use a new **Product File** to collect catalog information published to GSA Advantage! This file **consolidates, combines, and replaces** the Products Price Proposal Template (PPT) with the catalog information required for selling products on GSA Advantage! Currently this information is captured on the Schedule Input Program (SIP) template. **SIP will be retired** after the transition to the CCP.

In March, GSA will begin a pilot of the CCP with a subset of contractors holding the Office Supplies 4th Generation (OS4) Special Item Number (SIN). Following a successful pilot, MAS contractors will transition to the CCP in waves. As a reminder, **the CCP will require users to be Authorized Negotiators**. MAS contractors should update their Authorized Negotiators list accordingly.

To read more about the Product File or see a copy, visit the <u>Catalog Management Interact page</u>.

New Product 360s & Videos on GSA Advantage!

To make purchasing decisions easier, contractor catalogs on GSA Advantage! are now enhanced with product 36os and videos from the Verified Products Portal (VPP) whenever available. These visuals bring richer content to assist our customers and improve the overall buying experience.

This information is available in the media carousel under the main product image. To learn more about the VPP and how the data is used on GSA Advantage!, visit the <u>Catalog Management Interact page</u>.

MAS Office Hours

The MAS PMO hosts monthly office hours for our industry partners. These webinars cover various topics each month and provide opportunities for you to ask questions and hear directly from MAS experts!

QUICK LINKS
Register for MAS Office Hours
MAS Interact group

The next office hour is scheduled for Thursday, December 15, 2022 and the topic will be "The Benefits of TDR." The objective will focus on how TDR can benefit contractors and the major differences between TDR and Non-TDR contracts.

Register for the monthly office hours series today!

To see all previous recordings, visit the MAS playlist on YouTube.

Helpful MAS Resources

GSA and Multiple Award Schedule:

GSA Schedule

Schedule Customer Training

Electronic Subcontracting
Reporting System (eSRS)

MAS on GSA Interact

MAS Desk Reference

GSA's Blog

GSA's Vendor Support Center

GSA Small Business Assistance

Finding Your IOA and ACO

GSA's Office of the Procurement
Ombudsman

Preparing and Submitting a MAS Offer:

Roadmap to Preparing a MAS
Offer

GSA's Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU)

Procurement Technical Assistance
Centers (Free Assistance)

Marketing:

Contract Opportunities

<u>eLibrary - Contract Award</u> <u>Information</u>

eBuy - Electronic Request for Quote (RFQ) / Request for Proposal (RFP) System

Schedules Sales Query Plus (SSQ+)

Small Business Forecasting Tool

GSA Advantage! - Online shopping

Questions and feedback may be submitted to maspmo@gsa.gov.